

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-31 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 being the independent claims. Claims 16 and 32-34 were previously cancelled.

Applicants have amended the specification to update the Cross-Reference to Related Applications section. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Nicole D. Dretar
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 54,076

Date: 06-15-2005

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

409827_1.DOC